

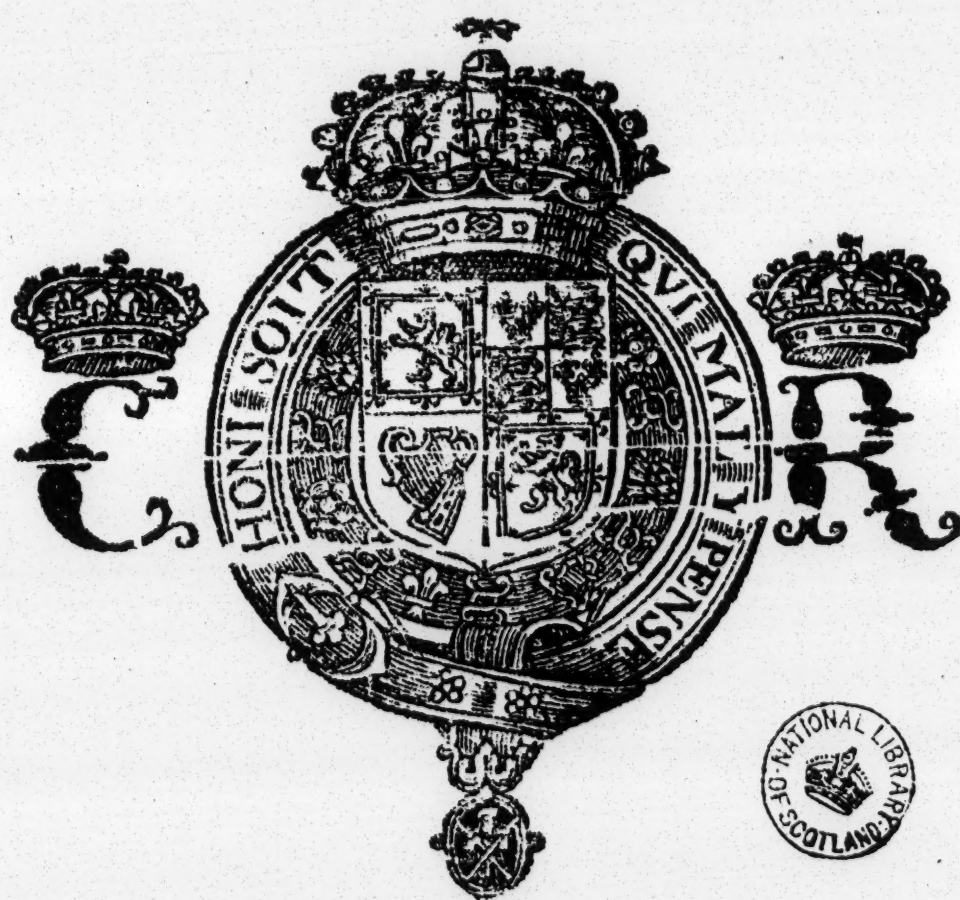
HIS MAJESTIES DECLARATION

To His City of

LONDON,

Upon occasion of the late Calamity by the
lamentable

FIRE.

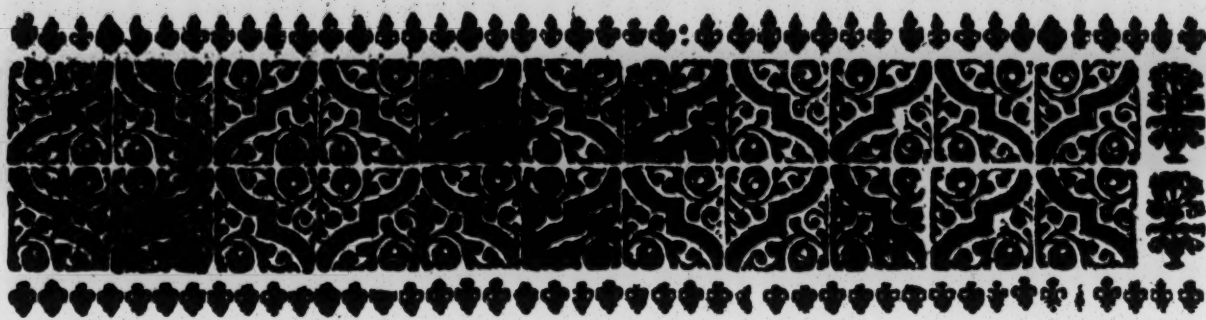


EDINBURGH,
Re-printed by *Evan Tyler*, Printer to the King's most Excellent
MAJESTY, 1666.

CUM PRIVILEGIO.

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HIS MAJESTIES DECLARATION

To His City of

L O N D O N,

Upon occasion of the late Calamity by
the lamentable FIRE.

C H A R L E S R.



S no particular Man hath sustained any loss or damage by the late terrible and deplorable Fire in his Fortune or Estate, in any degree to be compared with the loss and damage We Our Self have sustained, so it is not possible for any Man to take the same more to heart, and to be more concerned and solicitous for the rebuilding this Famous City, with as much expedition as is possible : And since it hath pleased GOD to lay this heavy Judgement upon Us all in this time, as an evidence of his displeasure for Our sins, We do comfort Our Self with some hope, that he will upon Our due humiliation before Him, as a new instance of his signal blessing upon Us, give Us life, not only to see the foundations laid, but the buildings finished, of a much more beautiful City then is at this time consumed ; and that as the seat and scituation of it is the most convenient and noble, for the advancement of Trade, of any City in *Europe* ; so that such care will be taken for the re-edification of it, both for use and beauty, and such provision made for the future, against the ordinary and casual accidents by Fire, as

may as far as humane wisdom can provide, upon the sad experience We have had, reasonably secure the same, and make it rather appear to the world as purged with the Fire (in how lamentable a manner soever) to a wonderful beauty and comeliness, then consumed by it; and We receive no small encouragement in this Our hope by the alacrity and chearfulness We observe in those who have undergone the greatest loss, and seem the most undone, who with undaunted Courage appear to desire the same We do, and resolved to contribute their utmost assistance thereunto. We have therefore thought fit, most necessary and agreeable to the great and constant affection We have alwayes had, and alwayes shall retain for this Our Native City, to use this Expedition in publishing Our Thoughts, Resolutions and Intentions upon this great affair, that though such present Rules and Directions cannot be formed, as must upon more mature deliberation be established for the re-edification, yet such inconveniences may and shall be prevented, which may arise by the hasty and unskilful Buildings many may propose to erect, for their present conveniencies, before they can know how the same will suite and consist with the design that shall be made; And if this candour of Ours, which resolves with the blessing of GOD so to provide for the just right and interest of all, that no man shall have cause to complain of wrong and oppression; And if this Our reasonable animadversion shall not meet with that prudent submission We expect, but that some obstinate and refractory persons will presume to erect such Buildings as they shall think fit, upon pretence that the Ground is their own, and that they may do with it what they please, such their obstinacy shall not prevaile to the publick prejudice; but VVe do hereby require the Lord Mayor, and the other Magistrates of the City of *London*, in their severall limits, to be very watchful in such cases, and speedily to pull down whatsoever such men shall presume to set up, so much to the disturbance of Publick Order and decency, and that they forthwith give notice to Us or Our Privy Council of such their proceedings, and return the names of such refractory persons who presume to contemn this Our Injunction, and VVe shall give Order for their exemplary punishment without the Violation of the Publick Justice.

And because no men shall complain or apprehend that by this caution or restraint of Ours, they shall or may for a long time be kept from providing Habitations for themselves, and for the carrying on their Trades, though VVe make no question, but in a short time, with the assistance and advice of the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen (who have be-
fought

fought us for some time to put this restraint) to finish the whole design, even before any man can make provision of materials for any valuable Edifices: We do declare, that if any considerable number of men (for it is impossible to comply with the humour of every particular man) shall address themselves to the Court of Aldermen, and manifest to them in what places their Ground lies, upon which they design to build, they shall in a short time receive such order and direction, for their proceeding therein, that they shall have no cause to complain; and so We proceed to the setting down such general, to which all particular designs must conform themselves.

In the first place the woful experience in this late heavy visitation hath sufficiently convinced all men of the pernicious consequences which have attended the building with Timber, and even with stone it self, and the notable benefit of Brick, which in so many places hath resisted and even extinguished the Fire; And we do therefore hereby declare Our express VVil and Pleasure, That no man whatsoever shall presume to erect any House or Building, great or small, but of Brick, or Stone, and if any man shall do the contrary, the next Magistrate shall forthwith cause it to be pulled down, and such further course shall be taken for his punishment as he deserves; And VVe suppose that the notable benefit many men have received from those Cellars vvhich have been vvell and strongly arched will persvade most men vvho build good Houses, to practise that good Husbandry by Arching all convenient places.

VVe do declare, That *Fleetstreet*, *Cheapside*, *Cornhil*, and all other eminent and notorious Streets, shall be of such a breadth, as may vvith GODS blessing prevent the mischief that one side may suffer if the other be on fire, which vvas the case lately in *Cheapside*, the precise breadth of vvich severall Streets, shall be upon advice vvith the Lord Mayor, and Aldermen shortly published, vvith many other particular Orders and Rules, vvich cannot yet be adjusted; in the mean time We resolve, though all Streets cannot be of equal breadth, yet none shall be so narrow as to make the passage uneasy or inconvenient, especially towards the Waterside; nor will We suffer any Lanes or Allyes to be erected, but where upon mature deliberation the same shall be found absolutely necessary, except such places shall be set aside which shall be designed onely for buildings of that kind, and from whence no publick mischief may probably arise.

The irreparable damage and loss by the late Fire, being next to the hand of God in the terrible VVind, to be imputed to the place in which it first brake out, amongst small Timber

houses standing so close together, that as no remedy could be applyed from the River for the quenching thereof, to the contiguousneſſe of the Buildings hindering and keeping all poſſible relief from the Land-side, VVe do reſolve and declare, That there ſhall be a fair Key or VVharf on all the River ſide, that no houſe ſhall be erected within ſo many foot of the River, as ſhall be within few dayes declared in the Rules formerly mentioned; nor ſhall there be in thoſe Buildings which ſhall be erected next the River, which We deſire may be fair Structures, for the ornament of the City, any houſes to be inhabited by Brewers, or Diers, or Sugar-bakers, which Trades by their continual Smoaks contribute very much to the unhealthineſſe of the adjacent places; but We require the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of *London* upon a full conſideration, and weighing all conveniences and inconveniences that can be foreſeen, to propoſe ſuch a place as may be fit for all thoſe Trades which are carried on by ſmoak to inhabit together, or at leaſt ſeveral places for the ſeveral quarters of the Town for thoſe occupations, and in which they ſhall find their accompt in convenience and profit, as well as other places ſhall receive the benefit in the diſtance of the Neighbourhood, it being Our purpoſe that they who exerciſe thoſe neceſſary profeſſions, ſhall be in all reſpects as well provided for and encouraged as ever they have been, and undergo as little prejudice as may be by being leſs inconvenient to their Neighbours.

Theſe grounds and foundations being laid, from the ſubſtance whereof we ſhall not depart, and which being publiſhed are ſufficient advertiſements to prevent any mans running into, or bringing an inconvenience upon himſelf by a precipitate engagement in any act which may croſs theſe foundations, VVe have in order to the reducing this great and glorious deſign into practice, directed, and VVe do hereby direct, that the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen do with all poſſible expedition cauſe an exact Survey to be made and taken of the vvhole ruins occaſioned by the late lamentable Fire, to the end that it may appear to vvhom all the Houſes and Ground did in truth belong, vvhether the ſeveral occupiers vvere poſſeſſed of, and at vvhether Rents, and to vvhom, either Corporations, Companies, or ſingle perſons, the Reverſion and Inheritance appertained, that ſo proviſion may be made, that though every man muſt not be ſuffered to erect vvhether Buildings and vvhether he pleaſes, he ſhall not in any degree be debarred from receiving the reaſonable Benefit of vvhether ought to accrue to him from ſuch Houſes or Lands, there being nothing leſs in Our thoughts, then that any particular

particular persons right and interest should be sacrificed to the publick benefit or convenience, vvithout such recompence as in justice he ought to receive for the same: And vvhen all things of this kind shall be prepared and adjusted by such Commissioners, and othervvise, vvwhich shall be found expedient, VVe make no doubt but such an Act of Parliament vvill pass, as shall secure all men in vvhat they shall and ought to possess.

By the time that this Survey shall be taken, VVe shall cause a Plot or Model to be made for the vvhole building through those ruined places, vvwhich being vvell examined by all those persons vvho have most concernment as vvell as experience, VVe make no question but all men vvill be vvell pleased vvith it, and very vvillingly conform to those Orders and Rules vvwhich shall be agreed for the pursuing thereof.

In the mean time vve do heartily recommend it to the charity and magnanimity of all vvell disposed persons, and VVe do heartily pray unto Almighty God that he vvill infuse it into the hearts of Men speedily to endeavour by degrees to redifie some of those many Churches vvwhich in this lamentable Fire have been burned dovvn and defaced, that so men may have those publick places of Gods VVorship to resort to, to humble themselves together before him upon this His heavy displeasure, and joyn in their devotion for His future Mercy and Blessing upon Us, and as soon as We shall be informed of any readines to begin such a good Work, We shall not only give Our assistance and direction for the model of it, and freeing it from buildings at too near a distance, but shall encourage it by Our ovvn bounty and all other vvayes VVe shall be desired.

Lastly, that We may encourage men by Our own example, We vvill use all the expedition We can to re-build Our Custome House in the place vvhere it formerly stood, and enlarge it vvith the most conveniences for the Merchants that can be devised, and upon all the other Lands vvwhich belong unto Us, We shall depart vvith any thing of Our ovvn right and benefit for the advancement of the publick service and beauty of the City, and shall further remit to all those vvho shall erect any buildings according to this Declaration, all duties arising to Us upon the Hearth-money for the space of seven years.

Given at Our Court at White-hall the thirteenth day of September, One thousand six hundred sixty and six, in the eighteenth year of Our Reign.

F I N I S.